

View looking west down Fulton Street. Rendering by Studio Daniel Libeskind

Streets

The street network is the circulation system of New York City. At most times of the day streets provide a common public realm for travel, social interaction, and simply getting around. It is important that, as Lower Manhattan rebuilds, its street layout is analyzed and the optimum configuration determined. Several components can help guide this effort: the restoration of Fulton and Greenwich Streets, the "loop and the spine" (discussed below), improvements to West Street and Water Street, the City's proposed Street Management Program, and more effective traffic management in Chinatown.

Restoring and Unlocking the Street Grid

A major element of World Trade Center site planning is the restoration of Fulton and Greenwich Streets. The creation of the World Trade Center superblock interrupted a number of Lower Manhattan streets. One of the goals for the future WTC site is to restore streets that will improve the currently inconvenient and confusing network. The relatively narrow downtown streets do not lend themselves to supporting two-way traffic and one goal in restoring streets is to address this problem. A potential solution is to "pair" streets to provide more adequate routes for north-south and east-west travel.

Greenwich Street and Church Street

Reconnecting Greenwich Street through the World Trade Center site is critical in fulfilling the goal of connecting Tribeca with the nascent residential neighborhood south of Liberty Street and ensuring that the redeveloped WTC site will not be a barrier to north-south links. The restored Greenwich Street has the potential to be a vehicular street, a pedestrian path, or both. Studio Daniel Libeskind's design envisions connecting a new Greenwich Street with West Broadway, which currently ends at the WTC site, to create a seamless link with Tribeca. Church Street, one block east, could complement the new Greenwich-West Broadway route to create a system for local north-south trips.



Restoring and pairing critical north-south streets.



View looking north up Greenwich Street. Rendering by Studio Daniel Libeskind.

Under Libeskind's plan, Greenwich Street between Vesey and Liberty will be lined by retail establishments. At the intersection of Greenwich and Fulton Streets, there will be a major new crossroads, with cultural facilities, a hotel and conference center, an office building and the new PATH Terminal. The intersection of Greenwich and Fulton will be a significant downtown destination.

Church Street will also become a more lively street with the presence of both commercial office and retail uses along a clearly defined street edge. Two significant points along Church Street will be the entrance to the Cortlandt Street Galleria, a glass-enclosed, climate-controlled passageway through which pedestrians will be able to walk to Greenwich, and the Wedge of Light piazza at Fulton Street, described on the following pages.



The interior of the Cortlandt Street Galleria. Rendering by Studio Daniel Libeskind.